

REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-19. Claims 3, 4 and 8-17 are amended herein and new claim 20 is added. No new matter is presented. Thus, claims 1-20 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

OBJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112¶2:

Claims 3, 4 and 8-17 are objected to as being indefinite. Claims 3, 4 and 8-17 are amended herein to comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112¶2.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admission of prior art (AAPA), Japan Pat. No. JP411143691 (Hara) and Japan Pat. No. JP 404102929 (Nagasaki).

AAPA discusses listing setup items in a BIOS setup screen without identifying or indicating whether settings are enabled or disabled (see, discussion on page 5, line 15 through page 6, line 2). For example, the listing does not indicate settings controlled by the BIOS upon installation of a new version of an application. This presents a problem because it does not indicate all the settings that have been implemented (i.e., enabled/disabled).

The Examiner acknowledges that the AAPA does not teach identification of predetermined setting items based on setup use history during a previous power cycle, or that the predetermined setting items are displayed in a manner recognizable from other setting items, but relies on Nagasaki as teaching the same. However, Nagasaki is directed to maintaining a modification history of a piece of hardware and checking whether a modification level of the hardware corresponds to a level of a microprogram for controlling a logical device (see, abstract, lines 6-11). That is, Nagasaki is directed to detecting inconsistency between the modification history of the hardware with initial information of a microprogram.

Hara is directed to setting up an item based on each operating system (OS) using intrinsic setting contents corresponding to each OS, and setting up hardware environments independent of each OS using a common item setting program (see, paragraph 6 and 10). That is, Hara uses a BIOS setup program for setting both the items that are independent of the OS and setting the items that are dependent on the OS.

In contrast, the present invention enables a user to conveniently set up a use environment of a computer system in accordance with a selection(s) by the user. More specifically, the present invention displays predetermined setting items among a plurality of setting items based on setup use history during a previous power source cycle in a manner recognizable from other setting items.

Independent claims 1, 5 and 6 recite, "identifying predetermined setting items among a plurality of setting items based on setup use history during a previous power source cycle, the predetermined setting items having no setup use history or modification history" and "displaying the predetermined setting items in a manner recognizable from other setting items".

Independent claim 2 recites, "identifying setting items that are not reflected in a use environment of the computer from a plurality of setting items" and "controlling display of the setting items that are not reflected in the use environment in a manner recognizable from other setting items".

As also recited in claims 7 and 18, the present invention sets items "related to a user environment" of the computer using "a first program" and sets items "related to the use environment" using "a second program", where "an item set using the second program [has] priority over the same item set using the first program" and is identified as having priority over the other items.

Independent claim 19 recites that the method of identifying set up items of a computer system includes, "maintaining set up history information of the computer system when the computer system executes a set up operation" and "displaying the set up items including values of the set up items set using a software other than a software used during the set up operation based on the stored set up history information".

The cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest, identifying "predetermined setting items among a plurality of setting items based on setup use history during a previous power source cycle, the predetermined setting items having no setup use history or modification history", as recited in claims 1, 5 and 6, and identifying "setting items that are not reflected in a use environment of the computer from a plurality of setting items", as recited in claim 2.

Further, the cited references do not teach or suggest setting items using "a first program" and "a second program", where "an item set using the second program [has] priority over the

same item set using the first program”, as recited in claims 7 and 18, and “maintaining set up history information of the computer system” and “displaying the set up items including values of the set up items set using a software other than a software used”, as recited in claim 19.

It is submitted that the independent claims 1, 2, 5-7, 18 and 19 are patentable over the cited references.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, claims depending from independent claims 1, 2 and 5-7 are patentably distinguishable over the cited references. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, as recited in claim 3, “the setting values set during a setup operation for the setting items that are not reflected in the use environment are replaced by values set by software different from the software used during the setup operation”.

The cited references do not teach or suggest that “the setting values set during a setup operation for the setting items that are not reflected in the use environment are replaced by values set by software different from the software used during the setup operation”, as recited in claim 3.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM:

New claim 20 is added to recite that the present invention includes, “configuring a use environment of the computer system responsive to a selection from a display of various setting items indicating status of the setting items by a user without requiring direct use of a BIOS setup screen executed by the computer”, where “values of the configured use environment are subsequently displayed with the various setting items”.

AAPA, Hara and Nagasaki, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a method of identifying set up items of a computer system where a use environment is configured responsive to “a selection from a display of various setting items indicating status of the setting items by a user without requiring direct use of a BIOS setup screen executed by the computer”, where “values of the configured use environment are subsequently displayed with the various setting items”.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 20 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

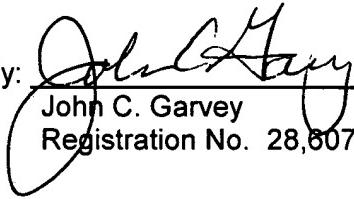
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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